

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 04910 261710Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSO-00 /060 W

----- 082844

P R 261443Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3941

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

IRUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4910

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO, PINS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) LISBON 4633 DTG 131830Z AUG 75

(B) LISBON 4861 DTG 251429Z AUG 75

(C) LISBON 4886 DDT 261041Z AUG 75

SUMMARY: EVENTS OF PAST 24 HOURS HAVE NOT STRENGTHENED POSITION  
OF MELO ANTUNES GROUP; GONCALVES IS STILL PRIME MINISTER. PCP-  
INSPIRED REVOLUTIONARY FRONT HAS CALLED "UNITARY" DEMONSTRATION IN  
LISBON AUGUST 27 AS FIRST IN PLANNED OFFENSIVE AGAINST FORCES  
OF REACTION AND INTERNATIONAL CAPITALISM. DEMONSTRATIONS WERE  
HELD AUGUST 25 IN OPORTO (BY LEFTIST WORKERS COMMISSIONS AND  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS); IN ESPINHO (BY PPD); AND IN FARO (BY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 04910 261710Z

PCP). SEVERAL PERSONS WERE WOUNDED IN RENEWED ATTACKS ON PCP

OFFICES IN LEIRIA. COMMUNIST-LINING PRESS KEEPS ALIVE SPECULATION RE AMBASSADOR'S ALLEGED MEETING WITH MELO ANTUNES NINE. END SUMMARY.

1. 1. REVOLUTIONARY FRONT CALLS DEMONSTRATION: NEWLY FORMED, COMMUNIST-INSPIRED REVOLUTIONARY FRONT ISSUED COMMUNIQUE AUGUST 25 CALLING FOR SERIES OF "UNITARY DEMONSTRATIONS" THROUGHOUT PORTUGAL AS FIRST STEP IN OFFENSIVE AGAINST FASCISM, SOCIAL-DEMOCRACY, AND IMPERIALISM. COMMUNIQUE CALLED FOR FIRST DEMONSTRATION IN LISBON AUGUST 27. SOCIALISTS MEANWHILE REACTED TO FORMATION OF UNITED FRONT IN STATEMENT RELEASED AUGUST 25. AFFIRMING ITS FIDELITY TO AFM-POLITICAL PARTIES PACT, PS TERMED CREATION OF FRONT A "VIOLATION" OF PACT. PS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT AFM WOULD HONOR PACT AND CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF GONCALVES, TERMED "PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE" TO CONSTRUCTION OF DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM IN PORTUGAL.

2. PM POSTPONES SPEECH: SPEECH BY PM SCHEDULED IN SESIMBRA EVENING OF AUG 25 WAS POSTPONED. GONCALVES SAID THAT REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEETING THAT EVENING PREVENTED HIS ATTENDANCE (REF C). DESPITE BUSSING IN OF PARTICIPANTS, AN ESTIMATED CROWD OF LESS THAN 2,000 WAS WAITING FOR PM'S APPEARANCE.

3. DEMONSTRATIONS HELD: FOLLOWING POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS TOOK PLACE AUGUSTH25:  
-- OPORTO: CROWD ESTIMATED AT 2,000 TOOK PART IN DEMONSTRATION CALLED BY WORKER COMMISSIONS AND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS TO DEMAND RETURN OF BRIG. EURICO CORVACHO TO COMMAND OF NORTHERN MILITARY REGION. DURING DEMONSTRATION RESOLUTION WAS READ CALLING FOR: (A) IMMEDIATE RETURN OF CORVACHO AND PUNISHMENT OF OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS REMOVAL; (B) IMMEDIATE ADOPTION OF MEASURES TO END ANTI-LEFTIST VIOLENCE; (C) IMPLEMENTATION OF COSTA GOMES' AUGUST 24 COMMUNIQUE; (D) DEVELOPMENT OF UNITED FRONT OF REVOLUTIONARY FORCES TO DEFEND GAINS (NATIONALIZATIONS, AGRARIAN REFORM, ETC.) MADE BY REVOLUTION TO DATE; AND (E) STRENGTHENING OF FIFTH PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT.  
SIMULTANEOUS DEMONSTRATION ELSEWHERE IN OPORTO, CALLED BY DIFFERENT COUNCILS, DEALT WITH SAME THEMES, BUT ALSO CALLED FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SPECIFIC ECONOMIC REFORMS (E.G. REDUCTION OF FERTIL-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 04910 261710Z

IZER PRICES, CHEAP CREDIT FOR SMALL FARMERS) ADVOCATED IN DOCUMENT PREPARED BY COPCON OFFICERS (GEFTEL A).  
--ESPINHO: PPD CONCLUDED SERIES OF RALLIES IN NORTH WITH LARGE RALLY IN ESPINHO FEATURING SPEECHES BY PPD LEADERS MAGALHAES MOTA AND EMIDIO GUERREIRO. MOTA COMPARED EUPHORIA OF APRIL 25, 1974 WITH PRESENT GRIM MOOD OF COUNTRY AND CLAIMED THAT IF PPD POSITIONS HAD PREVAILED IN PAST CRISES, THERE WOULD BE NO VIOLENCE IN PORTUGAL TODAY. GUERREIRO, PREDICTING THAT CURRENT

GOVERNMENT WOULD "BREATHE ITS LAST WITHIN MATTER OF HOURS," AFFIRMED THAT ONLY A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIVE TO THE POPULAR WILL COULD RESOLVE THE SERIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS FACING PORTUGAL.

-- FARO: PCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER ANTONIO DIAS ADDRESSED CROWD REPORTEDLY NUMBERING IN THOUSANDS. PURSUING FAMILIAR PCP THEMES, HE ALLUDED TO THE DANGER POSED TO THE REVOLUTION BY REACTIONARY INSPIRED VIOLENCE AND THE COLLABORATION OF CERTAIN PARTIES (READ PS AND PPD) WITH FASCISTS. HE AFFIRMED THAT PCP WAS WILLING TO DEFEND REVOLUTIONARY LIBERTIES, WITH ARMS IF NECESSARY, AND CALLED FOR FORMATION OF COMMON FRONT OF REVOLUTIONARY FORCES AGAINST REACTION.

4. RENEWED VIOLENCE IN LEIRIA: FOLLOWING UNSUCCESSFUL AUGUST 24 ATTEMPT TO DESTROY PCP OFFICE IN LEIRIA, CROWDS ASSEMBLED AUGUST 25 FOR SECOND TRY, ALSO UNSUCCESSFUL. PCP MILITANTS DROVE OFF ATTACKERS WITH SHOTGUN FIRE, WOUNDING SEVERAL. TROOPS SUBSEQUENTLY ARRIVED ON SCENE AND DISBURSED CROWDS WITH REPEATED WARNING SHOTS, ONE OF WHICH KILLED PASSERBY. IN TOWN OF SEIA, MEANWHILE, CROWDS SACKED OFFICES OF PCP ON AUGUST 25 AFTER COMMUNISTS ABANDONED BUILDING.

5. MORE SPECULATION RE AMBASSADOR: COMMUNIST-LINING "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" AUGUST 26 CARRIES BELOW THE FOLD FRONT-PAGE ITEM ASSERTING THAT AMBASSADOR DID INDEED MEET WITH MEMBERS OF MELO ANTUNES GROUP. "DIARIO" TAKES FACT THAT EMBASSY STATEMENT (REF B) CONTAINED NO EXPLICIT DENIAL OF MEETING AS CONFIRMATION THAT SUCH MEETING DID TAKE PLACE. ITEM CONCLUDED WITH SPECULATION RE HIDDEN MOTIVES BEHIND SUCH GATHERING.

6. COMMENT: THE PRO-GONCALVES FORCES HAVE MOVED WITH CONSIDERABLE SKILL IN MAKING THE MOST OF THEIR ASSETS.

-- THEY HAVE KEPT THE PRESIDENT ON THE FENCE DESPITE CONSIDERABLE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LISBON 04910 261710Z

PRESSURES PLACED ON HIM TO OUST GONCALVES.

-- THEY HAVE PUT TOGETHER A "REVOLUTIONARY FRONT" OF THE PCP AND THE FAR-LEFT WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE.

-- THEY HAVE MADE SKILLFUL USE OF THE MEDIA.

-- THEY HAVE CONFINED THEIR ACTIVITIES TO AREAS OF KNOWN STRENGTH, CANCELLING DEMONSTRATIONS IN "OPPOSITION" AREAS AND CONCENTRATING APPEALS FOR MASS SUPPORT IN THE MORE HOSPITABLE LISBON-SETUBAL-EVORA AREA.

-- THEY HAVE MADE EFFECTIVE USE OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE AFM STRUCTURE WHICH THEY STILL CONTROL -- THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, J-5, AND PERHAPS SOON THE AFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY (REF C). ALTHOUGH EVENTS OF THE PAST 24-HOURS HAVE STRENGTHENED GONCALVES HAND, THEY HAVE NOT DECISIVELY ALTERED THE BALANCE OF FORCES. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE MELO ANTUNES-OTELLO GROUP HAS SUFFICIENT MILITARY SUPPORT TO DO THE JOB PROVIDED IT DOES NOT

ALLOW THE CURRENT IMPASSE TO DRAG ON.  
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, GOVERNMENT REFORM, MILITARY POLICIES, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LISBON04910  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750295-0347  
**From:** LISBON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750818/aaaaappy.tel  
**Line Count:** 171  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LISBON 4633  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, PO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006